

him as a friend. I ask you to join me in recognition of Mr. Mohammad Siddique Sheikh leadership, passion, and determination in service to our great nation.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
OREGON RARE PROGRAM

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the University of Oregon Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program. This AmeriCorps program is administered through the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement and is dedicated to improving economic, social, and environmental conditions in rural Oregon communities.

Since its inception in 1994, more than 600 RARE members have served all 36 counties and more than half of the cities in Oregon, providing much needed capacity and expertise to rural communities. In the past 25 years, RARE members have completed more than 2,000 assessments, plans, and reports for local communities, written more than 700 grants, raised over \$6 million for communities, and recruited more than 10,000 community volunteers who served more than 8.6 million hours. In the last five years alone, communities in my congressional district have benefited from 37 projects and partnerships coordinated by the RARE AmeriCorps Program.

This year, 31 RARE members are working across the State of Oregon to develop and implement community planning, community and economic development, natural resource planning, and community food security/food systems projects. Current projects in my district include a RARE member working with the City of Florence Public Art Committee to select and install two large-scale public art pieces in the Urban Renewal District. There is also a two-year project with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association focused on community-driven initiatives for outdoor recreation, signature events, and culinary and agritourism-related opportunities on the southern Oregon coast.

I am proud to note that RARE AmeriCorps Program partnerships include federal and state agencies and notable non-profit foundations and organizations. The key partners are the Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps), the University of Oregon, the Ford Family Foundation, the Oregon Food Bank, Travel Oregon, Oregon Main Street, Energy Trust of Oregon, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the RARE AmeriCorps Program on 25 years of service to rural communities in Oregon and to thank RARE for its many vital contributions. I have no doubt these first 25 years of success will serve as the inspiration for the next twenty-five.

CONGRATULATING THE PEARLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL BAND FOR BEING  
SELECTED TO PERFORM IN THE  
ROSE PARADE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland High School marching band, also known as "The Pride of Pearland," for being chosen to perform in the 131st annual Rose Parade.

The band was chosen for a number of reasons, most notably its member's community service efforts, specifically towards hurricane, Harvey relief. The band was one of 16 chosen out of over 100 national and international applicants and the only Texas band selected this year. In addition to community work, the bands are judged based on musicality and marching skills. The band also garnered community support to help raise the money funds needed to pay for the trip to Pasadena, California, for the parade.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland marching band for being chosen to represent Texas at the historical Rose Parade. We are very proud of them and this incredible accomplishment.

CELEBRATING DR. EDNA REHBEIN

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Edna Rehbein, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Texas State University, as she retires after 21 years of incredible public service. With her "can-do" spirit and high-minded vision, she's a model citizen and trusted community leader.

Renown for her expertise in Spanish and Spanish-American Literature, Edna has distinguished herself as a gifted educator and natural-born leader who has made a lasting impact on both her beloved university and the greater Round Rock, TX community. She's always shown tremendous respect and support for both students and colleagues while working tirelessly to make Texas State University Round Rock a world-class educational institution. She was the first director of the campus and started it from a program with just 5 classes that met at a local high school, to the program it is today with over 2,000 students and three state-of-the-art buildings on 101 acres in northeast Round Rock.

Outside of teaching, Edna contributes her expertise to various civic organizations in Central Texas. She represents Texas State University on community boards and organizations, including the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Board, Round Rock ISD Partners in Education Board, and was a founding member of the Round Rock Arts Council. She is also on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, Randolph (Macon Woman's) College, in Lynchburg, VA, and is active at King of King's Lutheran

Church. Her work to contribute her considerable energies to these worthy causes represent the best of Texas' generous spirit.

Dr. Edna Rehbein's retirement is the richly-deserved beginning of an exciting journey. I join her former students, colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, commending her commitment to education, and wishing my friend nothing but the best in the years ahead.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE WHITE  
TANKS ROTARY CLUB AND  
YOUTH4TROOPS

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the White Tanks Rotary Club and the Youth4Troops organization, who are coming together to prepare and package goods to be shipped to our service members deployed overseas and for homeless veterans.

This event brings together two groups dedicated to serving our military members and inspiring patriotism in fellow youth, and across generations by volunteering on behalf of service members and veterans everywhere. This event is intended as an expression of gratitude toward the many sacrifices that these military members make in defense of liberty in America and around the world. The White Tanks Rotary Club has made good on its mission to serve others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace.

I commend the participants, the White Tanks Rotary Club and Youth4Troops, for coordinating and hosting this event.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND  
CAREER OF AMBASSADOR MAR-  
ION H. SMOAK

**HON. MICHAEL WALTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Ambassador Marion H. Smoak as he celebrates his 103rd birthday. Ambassador Smoak has dedicated many years to public service and embodies the principles of a true servant leader.

Ambassador Smoak earned a bachelor's in English and History from The Citadel in 1938. He went on to receive a law degree from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1941. After receiving his law degree Ambassador Smoak served in the Army as a Judge Advocate and was stationed in Berlin, Germany and New Caledonia, Japan with the 11th and 82nd Airborne Divisions. Following his tour abroad, he became a law professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Upon leaving his position at West Point, Ambassador Smoak continued to serve in the Army as a Legislative Liaison Officer right here in Washington, D.C. During his service, he assisted in drafting legislation and performed liaison duties both with Congress and